

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



GRAY DAVIS
Governor

August 14, 2002

TO: Local Health Officers and County Health Administrators

SUBJECT: Local Public Health Preparedness and Response to
Bioterrorism Program: Application for Fiscal Year 2002-03
Funds and Local Plan and Budget Guidance

Please find enclosed an Application for receiving Fiscal Year (FY) 2002-03 funding for Local Public Health Preparedness and Response to Bioterrorism, along with the Plan and Budget Guidance. These materials will be posted to the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), Emergency Preparedness Office (EPO) Web site (www.dhs.ca.gov/epo), along with a copy of the Public Health Preparedness and Response Capacity Inventory (August 2002), for your use.

All County Teleconference

CDHS will hold an All-County Bioterrorism Leads Conference Call on Monday, August 19, 2002 to answer any questions you may have about these materials. This teleconference is geared toward plan development. It will be most helpful to have staff who are responsible for preparing your local plan be on the call. To make the best use of our time on Monday, please submit your questions to me in advance of the call, by Friday, 12:00 P.M., August 12, 2002. Information on the call is as follows:

Date:	Monday, August 19, 2002
Time:	4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
Dial-in Number:	(916) 440-1977
Passcode:	2525#

e-mail for Questions: pfelten@dhs.ca.gov

Funding Information

Two funding tables are attached for your information. One table lists the full amount of each jurisdiction's Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3 funding. A second table provides information on your FY 2002-03 funding amount, based on the amount CDHS has been authorized to spend in the 2002-03 State fiscal year.



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www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

The formula-based (Category II) awards and the LRN Level A Public Health Laboratory amounts have been prorated to reflect approximately 12/14th of the total amount. The LRN Level B Public Health Laboratory amounts are for the full amount.

One of the key issues at this time is the lack of passage of the State Budget for Fiscal Year 2002-03. Until this Budget is passed and signed, Category 2 and 3 funds cannot be released. Therefore, we have not included a payment schedule in the Application. This information is pending final action on the Budget and other approvals and will be sent to you via a Program Letter from the EPO.

The federal project period for California's award from CDC runs through August 2005. However, funding to California at the present level (\$60.8 million) is only through August 30, 2003. Future year funding is contingent upon federal reauthorization and appropriation. At the present time, level funding to State health agencies is proposed for the next federal funding cycle.

Continued funding of local health jurisdictions will depend upon CDC's favorable review of supplemental work plan materials prepared by CDHS in August 2002. More importantly, it will depend on your ability to demonstrate progress toward achieving the critical capacities while appropriately spending funds once they have become available to you.

Category 1 Funds

CDHS has received signed contracts for Category 1 initial funds from more than half of all eligible jurisdictions. These contracts are now being processed. A number of jurisdictions have indicated that they would like to carryover their unspent Category 1 funds into their Category 2 award. Category 1 funds that are rolled over into the Category 2 award for expenditure in the 2002-03 fiscal year will be treated as Category 2 funds, i.e., they will be allocated in quarterly payments once the Budget is signed.

At this time, Category 1 funds are the **ONLY** funds the CDHS has authority to spend. Due to the uncertainty as to when this year's Budget will be signed, it is **strongly** suggested that you send in the signed contract as soon as possible to facilitate the process of planning and hiring staff.

Plan and Budget Submission

The due date for submission of your Application and Local Bioterrorism Preparedness Plan and Budget has been extended to October 15, 2002. You are welcome to submit these materials in advance of this due date. Except for original signature pages, you may submit your application electronically to:
epoinfo@dhs.ca.gov.

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A formal hardcopy application packet with specific funding amounts for each health jurisdiction will be mailed to each local health jurisdiction in care of the local health officer next week. That application packet will include a copy of the CDC Public Health Preparedness and Response Capacity Inventory (August 2002 version), as well as contact information for questions and technical assistance from CDHS staff.

Communication

We now have multiple people from the same local health jurisdiction calling to say that they have been designated as the "BT Coordinator". Similarly, we also have as many as seven individuals from a single jurisdiction -- none of whom have been BT leads in our planning process to date -- calling and stating that any communication from CDHS to their health officer or health administrator also needs to be sent to them. From CDHS perspective, I need to know two pieces of information:

- (1) Who is the county designee for receiving official communication from CDHS?
This would include program letters and funding information.
- (2) Who has been designated as the County Bioterrorism Coordinator?

Upon receipt of this letter, I would encourage you to email this information to Kim DeWeese at kdeweese@dhs.ca.gov. CDHS envisions a need to provide technical information or other resources directly to local staff. In a future communication, CDHS will be requesting that staff responsible for specific focus areas register through our Web site.

I apologize for the delay in getting the Application and Plan and Budget Guidance information to you. CDHS will do everything it can to expedite the funds once they are available.

Sincerely,

Patricia G. Felten
Acting Assistant Deputy Director
Emergency Preparedness Office

Enclosures